

**By TERESA
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Not only was it great news for Greenville County and the City of Emporia but also for Mecklenburg County, as well as neighboring localities and their residents who are hoping to one day have a better paying job. Greenville County, Emporia and Mecklenburg County are partnering to construct a megasite in Greenville County.

The Greenville County Water and Sewer Authority will receive \$2.6 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) for infrastructure improvements to support development of the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MAMaC) in Greenville County.

"The development of the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center has been a priority of the Greenville County Board of Supervisors," noted Greenville County Economic Development Director Natalie Slate.

"The support of the U.S. Economic Development Administration will assist with the construction of a water line to bring potable water directly to the MAMaC site. The water main extension will be engineered to serve the future clients of MAMaC."

The Authority will construct a new 14" waterline along Otterdam Road and replace an existing 8-inch waterline on Allen Road with a 16-inch waterline. "The goal of the MAMaC development team is to continue to reduce the timeline for a client to become operational. With the construction, water will be immediately available to a potential developer at the MAMaC site cutting the 9-12 month design and construction timeline down to 0 months," she said.

MAMaC has been a front runner by several international clients looking to build a facility in America, Slate pointed out. "The comments received by the client were all very positive and gave great viability to the site's future. The advancement of MAMaC due to the EDA grant award will open many doors for Southside Virginia and the Commonwealth to compete for economic development projects on a whole new level.

"Our community has a long history of meeting the needs of industry and we look forward to the challenges of attracting an advanced manufacturing facility to Southside Virginia."

The Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center is one of Virginia's primary mega-site developments. The improvements will help strengthen and enhance diversification of the region's advanced manufacturing cluster, boost new commercial and industrial development, and create opportunities for job creation in the region. According to the EDA, the project is expected to create 1,191 jobs.

MAMaC is a 1,545 acre McCallum Sweeney Certified "Mega-Site" located in Greenville County just north of Emporia with direct access to the CSX mainline rail and approximately 1.3 miles of frontage along I-95.